**Wildlife photographer Mangelsen has seen it all; now you can too**  
By DAVE SCHWAB

He's taken some four million photographs of animals in their natural states – and wildlife photographer Thomas Mangelsen's new book, "The Last Great Wild Places," is a compendium of the finest work from one of the most prolific and award-winning nature photographers of our time.

"It's a 40-year retrospective," said Mangelsen, 69, who was in town recently at his Images of Nature Gallery at 7916 Girard Ave., one of eight Mangelsen galleries nationwide. "It includes all my classic images from the beginning to very recently."

The Grand Island, Neb.-born photographer, the son of a 5-and-dime store owner, grew up on the

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**THE SEASON IS IN FULL SWING**

The Village marked Sunday, Dec. 7 with the 57th installment of the biggest event of the season – the La Jolla Christmas Parade & Holiday Festival. Under the banner 'Spirit of Christmas - Peace on Earth,' this year’s gala attracted up to 30,000 along Girard Avenue and at points in every direction as marching bands played, horses rode, antique cars putted along and parade entrants strutted their holiday stuff. The event was a perfect beginning to the holiday bustle – and for more parade information and holiday images, please see pages 18 and 19.

PHOTOS BY DON BALCH

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**100 years and counting**

The La Jolla Christmas Parade & Holiday Festival was more than just – well – a Christmas parade and holiday festival. It also marked the 100th anniversary of the multi-use La Jolla Recreation Center, and parade organizers gave it its just due. Our story, with two very cool images from 1915, is on page 5.

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**THE JURY'S IN**

Plan group nixes Whale Watch manse, Alzheimer's unit

By DAVE SCHWAB

La Jolla Community Planning Association reaffirmed its staunch opposition to a modernistic manse proposed in La Jolla Shores and nixed a proposal to site an Alzheimer's facility on Fay Avenue in a former spa building in the heart of the Village.

Those were some of the highlights of the Dec. 4 meeting of the community advisory group that makes land-use recommendations to the City.

With one abstention, community planners opposed 15-0 a residence proposed at 8490 Whale Watch Way that has been years in the pipeline and, according to developers, has been extensively downsized and reconfigured to allay neighbors' concerns that the project is too bulky and out of character with its surroundings.

The Whale Watch project now calls for demolishing an existing single-family residence and constructing a 7,000-square-foot, two-story structure over a basement on a lot slightly larger than 20,000 square feet.

The Whale Watch project was remanded to the association by the City Planning Commission, with commissioners requesting that the project applicant significantly reduce the size of a garden wall on site.

But local residents and planners were unconvinced the Whale Watch project was different enough now not to be considered out of character with its surroundings.

Association board member and architect Phil Merten said that certain findings have to be made for the Whale Watch project to be granted permits.

"One of those is that the project is in compliance with the (City) municipal code and with the La Jolla Shores Pluraged District Ordinance (development blueprint)," Merten said, contending the rede-
With the goal of clarifying state law on greenhouse gas emissions, the board of directors of the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) announced Dec. 5 it will appeal a recent Fourth District Court of Appeal decision on the environmental review of its regional transportation plan up to the California Supreme Court.

“The Board decided that it is our responsibility to press forward with this case,” said Dick Dale, SANDAG board chair. “We’ve done our absolute best to follow the law in everything we’ve done. At this point, the law needs to be clarified—not just for our region but for every planning agency and city in California.”

On Nov. 24, a three-judge panel of the Fourth District Court of Appeal issued a split decision on whether SANDAG fully complied with state environmental laws in preparing the environmental impact report for its 2050 Regional Transportation Plan—contrary to the conclusions of the California Department of Transportation and the state Coastal Commission.

On Nov. 24, a three-judge panel of the Fourth District Court of Appeal issued a split decision on whether SANDAG fully complied with state environmental laws in preparing the environmental impact report for its 2050 Regional Transportation Plan—contrary to the conclusions of the California Department of Transportation and the state Coastal Commission.

The Cleveland National Forest Foundation and other petitioners subsequently filed suit challenging the environmental impact report, a separate document that analyzes the environmental impacts of the plan.

Among other issues raised in its defense, SANDAG argued that it followed the direction it received from the state as it applied various laws regarding greenhouse gas emissions. But in some instances that direction was found ambiguous, particularly given the fact that SANDAG was the first metropolitan planning organization in California to produce a transportation plan under new greenhouse gas reduction laws.

The majority also concluded that SANDAG should have based its greenhouse gas analysis on the reduction of overall driving in the region and that it disregarded the issue of reducing traffic congestion. SANDAG’s longstanding position has been that it is taking a multi-pronged approach to greenhouse gas emissions reductions.

“How many miles cars drive is an important measure in greenhouse gas reductions, but it’s not the only measure,” Dale said. “Future technologies may dramatically cut greenhouse gases from vehicles. We must pursue many options—including increasing transit, biking and walking. We are looking at future projects that increase those choices and trying to find a combination of projects that the region is willing to support.”

Since the completion of the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan, several other planning organizations have issued transportation plans for their regions, and the information included in them has evolved. Updates to regional plans are required every four years, and with each update, SANDAG seeks to improve on the previous iteration of the plan. As required by law, SANDAG is currently working on an update to the 2050 Regional Transportation and environmental impact report.

**WATCH CONT. FROM PG. 1**

**Phil Merten**

**Association colleague Michael Costello** said it was “disingenuous” and “a misuse of language” to refer to the 20-foot-high wall on the property as “a garden wall.”

“Its bulk and scale is huge from the street. It really looms,” said board member Janie Emerson. “With a residential care facility, you get less parking impact and almost no significant traffic increase” that would come with some other retail uses.

Former association board member Jim Fitzgerald pointed out the Alzheimer’s facility would be out of character with zoning for the area, whose plans call for mixed use with character. Attorney Matt Peterson, representing the project applicant, disagreed, contending that a residential care facility for the elderly didn’t fit in with surrounding businesses and the trend of development in the area.

A brief slideshow presentation was given by assisted-care industry reps who spoke in favor of Monarch Cottages, saying such a facility was needed and that the Village was an ideal spot for it.

“All really is the highest and best use in this particular location for this building,” argued architect James Brown, representing developers.

“With a residential care facility, you get less parking impact and almost no significant traffic increase” that would come with some other retail uses.

Former association board member Jim Fitzgerald pointed out the Alzheimer’s facility would be out of character with zoning for the area, whose plans call for mixed use with an emphasis on ground-level retail.

**As a piece of sculpture (Whale Watch manse), it’s really nice — but it’s tremendous size — that’s the problem.”**

Phr Merten

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Phil Merten
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UC assailant committed to state mental hospital

A man suspected of stabbing a biotech executive near the Westfield UTC mall on Dec. 3 was pronounced dead Monday by a judge at a state mental hospital after a judge declared he was mentally incompetent to stand trial for attempted murder.

The parents of Odie James Miller Jr., 21, were present Wednesday when San Diego Superior Court Judge Joseph Brannigan ordered Miller to Patton State Hospital. Brannigan also ordered that Miller take medication and that it should be given by force if Miller refuses to take it.

"Hopefully, he will be restored to competency," said Brannigan after reading Miller's mental evaluations.

Criminal proceedings remain suspended against Miller, who will be returned to San Diego for trial if doctors and another judge find he has regained his competency.

Miller's attorney, Amy Hoffman, said Odie Miller Sr., Miller's father, wanted another judge's order that banned contact with him set aside. Miller was on probation for assaulting his father in 2011, and she said the elder Miller has not been able to talk to his son since his Aug. 7 arrest.

Deputy District Attorney Geoff Allard said the order was there because Odie Miller Jr. "threatened to stab his family," Allard argued to keep the order as is. Brannigan reviewed the other judge's noncontact order because the father was considered a victim. He ruled the order must remain in effect even while his son is in the hospital and that the order did not permit telephone calls. Brannigan said he might reconsider the order once the son has been stabilized on anti-psychotic medication.

Miller is accused of repeatedly stabbing the biotech executive, 44, referred to in court records as B. P. M., around 12:15 p.m. on Aug. 6 in the vicinity of Renaissance Avenue and Towne Centre Drive. The attack occurred at random and without motive.

Back-Door Bandit sentenced in robberies

A member of the Back Door Bandits was sentenced Dec. 1 to eight years in state prison after pleading guilty to multiple robbery charges involving the Smashburger restaurant in La Jolla and other restaurants.

Duran Montig Caldewell was ordered to pay $2,675 to one employee of the Smashburger restaurant on Prospect Avenue. Five other employees were also robbed that same night, Aug. 4, 2013.

Caldewell, 25, was also ordered by San Diego Superior Court Judge Charles Rogers to pay $853 to a Rigoberto's Taco Shop restaur-

San Diego can respond online at sandiego.gov/mayor/sotc/index.html. The event is free. Start time is 6 p.m.; the theater is located at 868 Fourth Ave.

Scripps researcher wins top young scientists award

A young scientist at the Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla has won a prestigious $250,000 prize for his work on how mammalian cell size is influenced by its environment.

Karen Peled, a postdoctoral scholar, which retains official oversight surrounding the city's approach to La Jolla Children's Pool, has filed suit challenging the city's decision to close the area from Dec. 15 to mid-March, paving the way for a legal showdown.

The group maintains that the closure violates rights of public access set out in California's Constitution and the state's Coastal Act.

The pool has been the target of controversy for decades amid ongoing pollution and access issues. Located off Coast Boulevard near Jenner Street, the pool is regularly used for recreation by divers, swimmers, fishermen and families.

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At 100, La Jolla’s fabled rec center is looking just fine

By DAVE SCHWAB

In 1915, La Jolla philanthropist Ellen Browning Scripps made one of several donations to her community: the La Jolla Recreation Center. A century later, the facility has become exactly what Scripps intended: a community hub for all of La Jolla.

Throughout its storied existence, the rec center has served people of all ages, from toddlers to seniors, offering a broad array of recreational services as well as hosting public meetings of virtually every important community group in town, including the La Jolla Town Council and the La Jolla Community Planning Group, which makes land-use recommendations to the City.

“For 100 years, the rec center has served its major purpose — community life,” said Carol Olten of the La Jolla Historical Society. “Through many years, thousands of families, children and sports enthusiasts have enjoyed its facilities ranging from toddlers to serious tennis professionals.”

Olten said the rec center has become all things to all people. “(Public) meetings are held there,” she said. “Yoga is practiced there. Basketball, tennis and soccer are played there. Swings and slides and other funny tots stuff are played upon there.”

But perhaps the most important function the rec center serves in the community is as its sounding board. “Disputes over parking, signs, sidewalks are resolved — and not resolved — often said, adding that “If the rec center walls could talk, they would probably say, ‘Please, La Jollans, after 100 years, we’ve had enough.'”

La Jolla Rec Center director Nicole Otjens noted that the facility provides recreational amenities, including grass playing fields and basketball courts, for everyone. “We’re a hub of recreation for people of all ages,” said Otjens, noting the center features three playgrounds for kids and outdoor basketball courts and a weight room for adults. “We have yoga and fitness classes and a youth flag football team, the La Jolla Sharks,” she added.

Otjens pointed out the La Jolla Recreation Council, which supports the center, raises funds to purchase “hours,” allowing it to be kept open longer to serve patrons. But providing recreation is only one of the center’s functions.

“We do 10 to 12 community events a year,” Otjens said, including an egg hunt, a children’s Halloween costume judging and the December holiday celebration. “The La Jolla Recreation Center was formally dedicated on July 3, 1915. It was the product of the combined vision of philanthropist Scripps and progressive young architects Irving and Louis Gill. Together, they conceived of the ‘La Jolla Community House and Playground.’”

In her bequest of the center as a gift to the city, Scripps was adamant about the building being open to any person regardless of race, creed or opinions. That was stipulated as a “condition” in the deed turning the property over to the city for public use.

The center and numerous buildings surrounding it, including the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, the earliest buildings at The Bishop’s School and the La Jolla Woman’s Club, together form the historical cornerstone of La Jolla Village.

Four years after the Rec Center opened, Archibald Talbot, a young man from Iowa who came to California to study law, took what he thought would be a temporary job as director of the rec center. He held that position until his retirement in 1952. While rec center director, Talbot and his wife Agnes developed a vigorous program of sports, including basketball and tennis tournaments. Among the prime achievements of the Talbots was creation of the annual La Jolla Tennis Tournament. In 1968, Mr. Talbot was honored as La Jolla’s “Mr. Tennis.”

“The Talbots took the lead in calling out Ellen Browning Scripps’ ideas of making the rec center a true Community House — a gathering place for the creation of strong minds and bodies,” said Otten. “Their spirits linger on as one of our keepsakes: the La Jolla Recreation Center.”

27 fast and easy tips to get the best price for your home

SAN DIEGO. Because your home may well be your largest asset, selling it is probably one of the most important decisions you will make in your life.

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To assist home sellers, a new industry report has just been released called “27 Valuable Tips That You Should Know To Get Your Home Sold Fast and For Top Dollar.” It tackles the important issues you need to know to make your home competitive in today’s tough, aggressive marketplace.

In this report you will discover how to avoid financial disaster when selling your home. Using a common-sense approach you will get straight facts about what can make or break the sale of your home.

You owe it to yourself to learn how these important tips will give you the competitive edge to get your home sold fast and for the amount of money.

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MERRY & BRIGHT
You look at a golfer out on the links, and you think all that is going on is selecting a club, setting up a shot and working on the short game, when what is really going on is mental support, a shoulder to cry on, the right coach at the right time.

Savannah Magallon, a junior at La Jolla Country Day School, was struggling. Mom was facing surgery and was in her cancer treatment, and dad had experienced kidney failure. In the middle of all this, Savannah, trying to impress in a club softball tryout last summer, injured her knee on a bang-bang “do-or-die,” scooping a grounder up and making the throw on the run. At least that’s the way the play was supposed to unfold. Instead, the Torrey upper-classman, performing on a jutted field, set her left foot in a hole and — twist! — wrenched her knee.

“I never went to a doctor. ‘Wait a week, and let’s see.’ That’s always my approach,” said Magallon, a hardworking, goal-oriented young woman who doesn’t savor time out when she’s working her life plan. She still doesn’t know what the diagnosis on the knee would have been but “I had a funny tan — funky — with a knee brace that summer. My friends put a photo on Facebook of just the knee.”

One thing led to another, and Savannah, the only child of parents who own their own business, switched sports, from softball to golf.

“The softball coach was really impressed with her skills. The goal: a college scholarship in golf,” he said. “I really enjoy it. I can sit there and chip a ton of balls and enjoy it,” she said. “I like working toward a goal. I’ll pick a pin and (think), where am I going to leave the ball? I’ll make a 2-foot circle. I’ll make a 3-foot, 6-foot, 9-foot putt. It’s satisfying to reach your goal.”

She’s not one of the Torrey’s top players — yet. Nonetheless, Cahoone says, “I haven’t had someone improve that much in one season.” How does she do it? “She’s extra-committed, driven to excel and improve her game.”

(Savannah)’s engaged in the interview of the student-athlete, the junior gave him a parting hug, an indication of the bond they have created. Thoroughly appropriate, very refreshing in this day of high-pressure prep athletics.

Where she has taken it, a year later, is nose-to-the-grindstone, dedicated practice and improvement, dropping what was a score in the 50s or 60s for nine holes two years ago to a score in the upper 70s over 18 holes in prac-tice, lower 80s in tournaments. Key relationships that helped get her emotionally through her tumultuous sophomore year, in view of her parents’ health challenges, were two mentors who took her under their wings at a crucial time.

“Bob Madsen is like a member of the family now,” said Cahoone’s most improved player on the squad.

Magallon explained that she hit a few balls for Madsen, head of instruction at Sycuan, and that he immediately took her on as a project. The other was Patrick Baynes, 21, who became her playing buddy. One worked with Savannah on specific skills; the other walked the course with her and provided the kind of moral support that only presence can give.

“There was a person you’d only known six months,” she said of Baynes, yet the emotional support he was lending was equivalent to years of bonding. While she got through her sophomore year academically, she was working her plan on the golf course to increase her skills. The goal: a college scholarship.

“I’ll make a 2-foot circle. I’ll make a 3-foot, 6-foot, 9-foot putt. It’s satisfying to reach your goal.”

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(Savannah)’s engaged in the game,” Cahoone continued, “to the point where everything is new to her.” She pays attention to every detail of her game in her headlong dash to progress.

Magallon is “very close” and fiercely loyal to her parents, Omar and Katherine. Asked why she is so motivated, she doesn’t hesitate to say, “It’s engrained.”

“My parents,” she said, “always taught me to be strong. To not follow others. I make my own path.”

Looking ahead to two years from now, she’d like to go to San Diego State University, her parents’ alma mater, study business and marketing and play golf on a full ride if they would take her. This is the school “I always told my parents I would never go to,” she laughed. But she would like to stay close to home, to watch a watchful eye on her parents’ health situations, though she said both are doing well now. She also said SDSU has a strong undergraduate business program.

San Diego figures in Holiday, Poinsettia tilts

The San Diego Bowl Game Association has announced that the USC Trojans will face Nebraska in the Holiday Bowl Saturday, Dec. 27. This will be the Trojans’ first appearance in the game. Nebraska will be the first Big Ten team to play in the game since 1994. It played in the Holiday Bowl three times, most recently in 2010, while it was a member of the Big 12 Conference.

In a related item, San Diego State University’s Aztecs Dec. 6 accepted an invitation to play Navy in the Poinsettia Bowl Tuesday, Dec. 23 at Qualcomm Stadium, the Aztecs’ fifth consecutive bowl appearance. The run of bowl games came after San Diego State went to just five bowls over the previous 43 seasons.
Elder abuse, embezzlement charges filed against piano shop owner

By DAVE SCHWAB

After a months-long investigation, criminal charges have been filed by the District Attorney’s Office against a Bird Rock merchant whose business practices have been called into question.

“There are 14 felony counts that I have filed against Peter Schroeder,” said Paul Greenwood of the DA’s office.

Schroeder and his wife, Dolores, own Schroeder Piano Company & Piano Rentals, Inc. at 5680 La Jolla Blvd. The Bird Rock merchant handles piano consignments. Several former customers of the establishment have stepped forward during the investigation to allege that they were swindled in their dealings with the Schroeders.

One such customer is La Jolla financial consultant Lance Pelky. Several years ago, Pelky alleged, he consigned a $10,000 piano with Schroeder on a 60-40 split and was repeatedly told by Schroeder that it “hadn’t sold yet.” Pelky said he ultimately stopped hearing from Schroeder altogether. He then took his case to TV consumer watchdog Michael Turko and “The Turko Files,” which subsequently profiled Schroeder and Schroeder’s alleged unfair business practices.

After that, Pelky claims Schroeder offered to pay him part of the money he was owed, which Pelky said he rejected, before both parties finally arrived at a mutual agreement upon partial settlement.

Upon hearing that criminal charges have now been filed against Schroeder, Pelky said, “If these criminal charges are proven to be true, or if defendant Peter Schroeder pleads guilty, it could finally spell the end of possibly decades of (alleged) criminal behavior happening right under our noses, right in front of us at the corner of Bird Rock Avenue and La Jolla Boulevard.”

Pelky said a conviction of Schroeder on the alleged charges filed against him “would be both bitter—and sweet—for all San Diegans.”

“Bitter as it would finally prove that Peter Schroeder may have been a criminal who preys on the weak as well as the strong,” Pelky said. “Sweet because, if convicted, he may finally get the hard prison time due to him for shattering the trust, lives, dreams and hopes of his victims, their families and the wonderful community of Bird Rock.”

An attempt by La Jolla Village News to contact Schroeder’s attorney, Schuyler V. V. Hoffman, was unsuccessful.

In a previous Village News article on Schroeder, his wife Dolores said her company has settled with Pelky and a handful of others who’ve come forward with allegations that she maintains are unfounded.

“Pelky’s account was settled five years ago,” she emailed. “He was paid more than he deserved after threats that he would do more bad publicity. There are other mitigating circumstances with (other) accounts payable that are too lengthy to go into.”

Deputy district Attorney Paul Greenwood’s office can be reached at (619) 531-3464.

Talbott comes to Ascot Shop

Clothier Robert Talbott, Inc. has launched its branded shop-in-shop initiative at La Jolla’s Ascot Shop, located at 7750 Girard Ave. This opening marks Robert Talbott’s third shop-in-shop opening this year.

The 700-square-foot area, designed to reflect the brand’s Monterey Peninsula origins, displays the Robert Talbott collection, which includes outerwear, knitwear, trousers, suits, dress shirts and its eponymous neckwear. Features include large imagery of the coast, dark hardwood flooring and Carmel stone.

Talbott launched the shop-in-shop retail initiative in April, introducing two of its venues in stores in Beverly Hills and Highland Park, Ill. The brand plans to open two additional locations in early 2015.

Talbott, founded in 1950 in Monterey, is an American purveyor of luxury apparel and accessories for men and women, including neckwear, shirts, knitwear, sportswear and made-to-measure clothing. It offers its products at specialty and high-end stores and at Robert Talbott brand stores and on roberttalbott.com.

The Ascot Shop was established in La Jolla in 1950 as a traditional men’s haberdashery.

PHOTO BY DAVE SCHWAB

American plains hunting and observing wildlife. His hands-on approach in part explains his uncanny ability to capture candid wildlife photographs.

“I rely heavily on my experience to put me in the right place at the right time and watch for the right moment,” he said.

Like the picture on Eastern Africa’s Serengeti Plain of a pride of lions sauntering toward him on a dirt road.

“I was in a Land Rover early in the morning, and lions. 20 or 30 of all different ages were coming out of the marsh towards the road,” he said. “I realized this was kind of a cool shoot because you could see all their legs coming right at us, the whole man-versus-lion thing.

“Noting he didn’t get his first camera until he was 23 (extremely late for a photographer), Mangelsen added his avocation “just started out as fun and grew into a profession.” He’s captured rare moments as polar bears – are disappearing from much of their current habitat in the Arctic because ice is disappearing.

“They (bears) have to have ice to hunt seals who haul out, who are 90 percent of their diet,” Mangelsen said. “If the ice is gone, seals are gone, the polar bears are gone. It’s very simple.”

Speaking of polar bears, Mangelsen spoke of a wildlife shoot he was on with the late Spence Wilson, who operated the downtown theater The Cove, which many La Jollans of today remember.

“Spence saved our lives,” he concluded, noting Wilson’s observational skills as he stood watch with the Navy for enemy subs during World War II.

“I was with a National Geographic crew photographing a polar bear mother and her cubs, and a white-out snowstorm just came out of nowhere,” Mangelsen said. “I didn’t see them. Spence did and waived his arms (to warn us). There was a polar bear coming, startling us very intently and we grabbed our gear and pulled the (truck) ladder up just before the polar bear got there.”

“Askew when — or even if — he’ll retire, Mangelsen, who lives near Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming, answered, “just when I die,” adding, “I’d like to die in the field.”

To order Mangelsen’s new book, or for more information, visit www.mangelsen.com.
Woman’s Glam Expo made everybody's holiday shopping easy

A Women’s Empowerment Glam Expo and crafter’s market was held on Dec. 6 in Sorrento Valley. Everyone arrived looking fabulous, which was the theme for the day. The afternoon was a great way to kick off the holiday shopping season.

G FASH jewelry hosted this terrific shopping market with local artisans, such as BeautiControl, Pure Romance, Thirty-One and Origami Owl. The event was also a brand launch for G FASH. During the afternoon, the company presented two fashion shows by SD Model Management, featuring the gorgeous G FASH jewelry.

Guests had fun scurrying from booth to booth and buying their holiday gifts. Beauty Demos were given by hair and makeup company Bellus Academy. G FASH also set up lash, nail polish and makeup stations for all to enjoy. Fabulous raffle prizes were given away, and at the end of the day, the crowd was treated to a performance by Eturan. Everyone said that they had a “Come with the Wind” fabulous time. The guests went home with a must-have goodie bag.

A Kids Art Corral was set up so parents could bring their children and still enjoy the day shopping and listening to speakers. Different speakers talked throughout about female empowerment and wellness. A portion of the proceeds went to DOVE Outreach, which benefits youth education and self-esteem programs for girls and women throughout San Diego. For more information, visit self-esteem.dove.us.

UPCOMING EVENTS
SUNDAY, DEC. 14: WISH UPON A SNOWFLAKE fashion show and toy drive presented by Lady Lane at Jolt N Joe’s, 379 Fourth Ave., in the Gaslamp Quarter, starting at 6 p.m. The event will showcase independent designers and visual arts. Proceeds will go to local community youth organizations. Admission is $30 or $10 off with a new unwrapped toy.

— Diana Cavagnaro, a nationally recognized hat designer and milliner, has been operating a fashion business for 30 years, the last 20 years in downtown San Diego’s historic Gaslamp Quarter. She has been teaching in the fashion department at San Diego Mesa College for 20 years.

NVA’s “Nutcracker” explores new turf, hoping to become a classic

By CHARLENE BALDIDGE

Thea-tah for the holidays

Through Dec. 31, Carlsbad’s New Village Arts Theatre presents “The Nutcracker.” No, not the popular ballet, but a 2007 play with music and dance, co-created by Phillip Klapperich, Jake Minton, Kevin O’Donnell and Tommy Rapley at Chicago’s House Theatre. Based on E.T.A. Hoffmann’s classic tale, “The Nutcracker and the Mouse,” the piece is not just for children (it may not be for some children) but also for the entire family.

As friends gather for the traditional Christmas party at Clara’s house, everyone anticipates the arrival of her older brother, Fritz, home from the war. Guests include Clara’s Great Uncle Erich (David Macy-Beckwith, the Drosselmeyer character). Instead of Fritz, a marine in dress uniform presents Clara’s mother with a folded American flag and Fritz’s sword, which later comes in handy as Clara, her toys and Drosselmeyer fight the evil Rats, who hate Christmas. The forces of good are abetted by Drosselmeyer’s gift, a Nutcracker doll that springs to life, abetted by Drosselmeyer’s gift, a Nutcracker doll that springs to life, the spit ‘n’ image of Fritz.

The parents, deep in their own grief, cancel future Christmas celebrations. The heroic Clara is portrayed (and sung ever so purely) by exceptionally talented, 11-year-old Abby DeSpain, remembered from her NVA debut in “Wait Until Dark.” DeSpain and Macy-Beckwith, the only two whose characters believe in magic, carry the show, which needs stronger lyrics and music. Director is NVA artistic director Kristianne Kurner, with choreography by Colleen Kollar Smith and musical direction by Chris O’Bryon.

“Tru” — which I had never seen before (neither was I ever a Capote devotee) — continues through Dec. 21 at Diversionary Theatre in University Heights. This features a wonderful, understated performance by Matt Scott. The play itself takes place at Christmastime in 1975. Based on Capote’s work, it does not have a dramatic arc, though it does have an upbeat ending. Capote may have contended with his lifelong demons (drugs and alcohol), but he never overcame them. Many friends deserted him, having become fodder for his witty and malicious gossip, most of it true. He was his own elegant, debauched creation. diversionary.org

It’s not too late to catch San Diego Musical Theatre’s “Irving Berlin’s White Christmas,” based on the classic film. It plays weeknights through Dec. 21 at North Park Theatre, 2891 University Ave., San Diego. sdmt.org or (619) 560-5740.

Wednesdays through Sundays through Dec. 28 at the Old Town Theatre: Cygnet Theatre’s “A Christmas Carol,” with beloved actor Tom Stephenson, directed by Sean Murray. cygnettheatre.com or (619) 337-1525.

Want strong language and adult situations? Try Second City’s “Nutcracking Holiday Revue,” with sketches, original music, magic and mayhem. It continues through Dec. 21 at La Jolla Playhouse’s Mandell Weiss Forum. lajollaplayhouse.org.

Classical music

Don’t miss Beethoven’s 9th Symphony this weekend (Dec. 12-14) at Mandeville Auditorium. Chorus and orchestra are conducted by Steven Schick, and the piece concludes with orchestra, soloists and chorus in the magnificent “Ode to Joy.” lajollasympho.org.

Also this weekend, San Diego Symphony Maestro Jahja Ling conducts the world premiere of David Bruce’s Violin Concerto (“Fragile Light”), performed by Gil Shaham. Bruce is the associate composer of San Diego Symphony. The renowned Shaham is always a welcome guest in San Diego. Also programed is Rachmaninoff’s Symphony No. 2, sandiegosymphony.org.
For the third year in a row, Fiesta de Reyes is offering San Diegans a special treat this holiday season. When you do your holiday shopping at Fiesta de Reyes, you will be rewarded with a discounted lunch or dinner. The ever-popular Shop and Dine promotion will kick off on Thursday, Nov. 20. For every $20 spent at one of the 19 boutique shops in Fiesta de Reyes between November 20 and January 4, guests will receive $5 off their meal at Barra Barra Saloon, Casa de Reyes or The Cosmopolitan Restaurant in Old Town. Guests may use one $5 coupon per person, per visit. The $20.00 expenditure can be a combination of purchases throughout Fiesta de Reyes stores. From children’s gifts, garden decor, ethnic-inspired clothing, and accents for any home, you’re bound to find something for everyone on your holiday list at Fiesta de Reyes. In addition, gift baskets will be on display throughout the Fiesta de Reyes plaza this holiday season and guests can enter to win each one at no cost. The winners will be drawn from all entries on January 5.

Adele Edling Shank, who developed and led UCSD’s playwriting program, died Nov. 27 in San Diego. She was 74.

Pioneer of a writing style called hyperrealism, Shank joined the UCSD faculty in 1981 as a lecturer, when the department was still called the Department of Drama, and became a member of the permanent faculty in 1984. Shank served as chair from 1989 to 1992, years that saw considerable growth in the department. She was also instrumental in seeing that the department became the Department of Theatre and Dance.

In 2010, she and her husband Theodore, also a distinguished professor emeritus in the UCSD theater department, made a gift to establish the Adele and Theodore Shank Professional Playwriting Residency Award. The fund supports graduating MFA student recipients in playwriting residencies at recognized and renowned theaters across the country. In recognition of the program, the former Forum Studio at UCSD was renamed the Theodore and Adele Shank Theatre.

Many of Shank’s students have gone on to successful careers in theater, film and television and in academia, including Naomi Iizuka, who is now directing the program her mentor built.

Shank said her style of writing was inspired by such painters as Robert Bechtle and Richard Estes. Her plays were produced nationally and in England and often involved collaboration with her husband, who directed most of the premieres. Her acclaimed six-part California series, which followed a quirky suburban family, included “Sunset/Sunrise,” “Winterplay,” “Stuck: A Freeway Comedy,” “Sand Castles,” “The Grass House” and “Tumbleweed.”

The Litchfield, Minn. Native and UC, Davis graduate’s plays were also workshopped and produced at La Jolla Playhouse, San Francisco’s Magic Theatre, Los Angeles Theatre Center and the Humana Festival at the Actors Theatre of Louisville, among many others nationally and abroad. The playwright also played a major part in creating UC San Diego’s Wagner New Play Festival, an annual showcase for emerging playwrights at UCSD.

She is survived by her husband Theodore; their daughter Kendra; their son Stan; and her sister, Susan Edling.

In lieu of flowers, the Shank family suggests contributions in Adele Shank’s memory be made to TheatreForum. Donations can be made online at giveto.ucsd.edu; please type “4719” or “TheatreForum” in the search field. Checks can also be made payable to the UC San Diego Foundation, with “TheatreForum 4719” in the memo, and mailed to 9500 Gilman Drive, #0940, La Jolla, CA 92093-0940.
3-year-old Table 926 is celebrating you!

By MARTIN JONES WESTLIN

The holidays are catching up to everybody, as they're wont to do every year. The sledgehammer they wield seems to get bigger every season, because they're here so soon after summer starts. I don't wanna say anything, but the Christmas peeps may be looking to merge celebrations with the guys who mount the Fourth of July parades nationwide.

So much for separation of church and state.

Meanwhile, you have another birthday fete to attend, in the form of a visit to Turquoise Street's Table 926. The venue, which basically straddles the de facto boundaries between La Jolla and Pacific Beach, is three years old now and wants you to know it, so it's set aside Friday, Dec. 12 for the doings. Between 5 and 10 p.m., you can expect $3 sparkling wine, live local music, two happy hours and dishes you just might not find anywhere else. Lamb Merguez sliders, duck confit tacos, squash bisque and white shrimp and grits are on tap, and sides like fresh corn grits stand at the ready. Specialty drinks mark a new installment, as Table 926 is launching a weekend brunch (trust me: Any one of the seasonal omelets will be super-great).

Wine, beer and desserts are all over the place here too, as are a couple twists on regular fare, like the cow's milk cheeses from Wales and Italy. Add the birthday atmosphere, and the La Jolla-PB confluence will mark itself as the place to be!

Church/state issues will be with us forever – but third birthdays come around only once. Get your look at one as Table 926 bares its rapidly aging soul at 926 Turquoise St.

Table 926 has a cool cow's milk cheese from Wales.

COURTESY PHOTO

The Broken Yolk Café

The Broken Yolk Café offers a large selection of home cooked meals in a comfortable and casual atmosphere. There are more than 20 different omelets to choose from, as well as a wide variety of other breakfast favorites which include pancakes, waffles and french toast. Feel more like lunch? Try one of our juicy half-pound burgers or one of our large sandwiches.
If you love Sushi, then you're in for a treat at the new Ahi Sushi & Grill. With more than 260 items on their menu, they are sure to have all your favorites.

As casual venues go, Ahi caters to a different level of taste, chiefly because of its attention to presentation. You get a dragon roll in the shape of a dragon, a caterpillar roll that looks like a caterpillar and an orange cut to look like a bear, a rabbit or any animal that comes to the artist’s mind. Meanwhile, that giant menu includes Chinese entries as well, and you can eat them in front of a big-screen TV.

Ahi Sushi & Grill is located at 3949 Governor Drive in University City in the shopping center. For more information, call (858) 678-0288 or visit iloveahi.com. Ahi has other locations in Alpine, San Marcos and San Diego as well.

Welcome to the new Taste of Himalayas Restaurant in La Jolla, which is conveniently located on Prospect. Find out for yourself why everyone is talking about this exciting new restaurant. We are pleased to introduce all of you to a new taste which is a reflection of unique and authentic cuisines from the Himalayan countries of Nepal and India. The finest of Nepalese and Indian cuisines are rich and diverse. Using the finest vegetables, meats and seafoods which are fully flavored with fancy spices and modest herbs combine to provide a delicious culinary experience. The warm hospitality of the Nepalese and Indians is legendary. In Sanskrit literature, the famous words “Atithi Devo Bhavah” or “the guest is truly your god” is a motto of Nepalese and Indian hospitality. Nepalese and Indians believe that they are honored if they share their meal times with guests. We prepare all the dishes to meet your taste preference, our menu consists of food originated from different parts of Nepal and India. We know that you will enjoy the taste from the Himalayan countries of Nepal and India with majestic atmosphere and experience the difference. Delicious, creative and healthy food is our commitment to our society.

8008 Girard Ave #170 La Jolla, CA 92037 • 858.551.9999
tasteofhimalayassandiego.com
Senior Friendly Home Adjustments

As we age, we may begin to notice that our homes are not as accommodating as they once were. The toilet may seem too low, the cabinets seem too high and steps and throw rugs pose a real risk. Sometimes major overhauls to make your home safe are necessary but other times there are easy and inexpensive fixes to new problems.

Are you having more difficulty opening and shutting the door or turning on faucets? Replacing doorknobs and faucets with a lever handle helps as you use your whole hand to turn inside of possible stubb fingers.

Are you afraid of falling in the shower or bathtub? A curtainless or a walk-in bathtub is a major change but a simpler idea could be a shower chair so you can sit while showering. Add a hand-held showerhead and cleaning yourself becomes a breeze.

Are you having a hard time getting up and down from the toilet? A new high toilet will help but another idea might be to purchase a raised toilet seat. Remember to have some grab bars installed next to the toilet or shower to help you continue your comfortable lifestyle.

Call them at (877) 731-1442 or visit our website at rightchoiceseniorliving.org.

3d Permanent Eyebrows

Jennifer Broomberg of The Artist’s Touch is now offering a new hyper-realistic method of permanent makeup for eyebrows called Micro-stroking. This is the latest technique in eyebrow tattooing where very tiny micro eyebrow strokes are placed delicately into the skin. This creates the most natural beautiful eyebrow, the end results are beautiful hair strokes which are finer and more defined than ever before. These crisp, fine hair strokes mimic one’s own eyebrow hairs exactly and fill in thin brows, browns with bald spots and are used for total brow reconstruction in the case of Alopecia, Trichotillomania or any other condition causing hair loss. It is ideal for anyone wanting to enhance the look of their eyebrows regardless of the amount of hair present. The pigments used in this method have been formulated to match one’s original eyebrow color and blend perfectly into one’s own eyebrow hairs to create a natural, flawless, fuller looking brow. The entire process takes about two or three hours, and then the client returns in about 3 weeks for a follow up to lock in color. The duration of permanent cosmetics is dependent on several factors, including client’s skin type and after care. The eyebrows will appear darker and bolder due to natural scabbing and healing for the first 10 days. It is very difficult to predict how well the skin will retain the pigment (two touch-up appointments are offered at no extra cost at The Artist’s Touch). All tattoos are subject to fading over time. While there is some discomfort most people would not classify the procedure as very painful. Topical anesthetics are used that numb the area localy. Recommendations on shape, design and color according to the client’s individual needs are made. There are many different shades of pigment which can be mixed to create a large variety of colors. As a painter and sculptor Jennifer has spent years working with colors and perfecting faces. Although working on a different surface - the human skin, she still relies on her years of training in and knowledge of color theory and the anatomy of the face. Every face is different and great care is taken to ensure the color is just right for her clients and designs are chosen to maximize the beauty of the face. Subtle changes can be made in the placement and shaping of the brow and can make an enormous difference. This is the most time consuming part of the procedure as well as the most important. Once the design and the shape and color have been agreed upon, the tattoo process usually takes about 45 minutes to an hour. Although cosmetic tattooing is considered to be permanent, the procedure does allow flexibility for color or shape change to some extent. Jennifer allows her clients to have as much control over the procedure as possible, so there’s very little room for error. Sola Salons is located 1 block from La Jolla Blvd, Suite 120. For more information call 858-945-7297 or email jenbroomberg@gmail.com.
Losing a Friend or a Pet

By Natasha Josefowitz, Ph.D.

You often say to a friend, “You are a sister to me” or “You’re the brother I never had.” And you are indeed blessed if you have a true friend, one who knows your foibles, your hopes, fear and aspirations and loves you not only because of who you are but also in spite of who you are.

A friend is one who knows your secrets and can be trusted to keep them, who is there for you through the fun times but also can be counted on for the bad ones. A true friend does not get bored when you obsess about something. And yet when a friend dies, our grief is often seen as less legitimate than when we lose a family member, and therefore there is less support from our family and other friends. The community does not rally around the grieving person, and there are fewer resources available. Members of grief support groups have all lost a parent, sibling, spouse or child. Friends are seen as replaceable.

“You have many friends” is a frequent response and only makes matters worse for not acknowledging the depth of the loss. The only way to cope is to recognize how awful you feel—how bereft—and to reach out to your friend’s family and grieve with them.

It may feel incongruous to write about losing a pet in the same column as losing a friend. Yet for those of us who have loved an animal, the difference is not obvious. A dog or cat can become a best friend and, for some people who are isolated in their homes, the only friend.

An animal is a companion who knows our habits and anticipates them. I have heard people speak of their dogs and cats as their furry kids. We hold them on our laps, stroke them, mumble sweet nothings to them. And if they’re small enough, we carry them around—just like we do with babies.

An animal is a constant presence, it is always there, underfoot, next to us on the couch, and often in our beds.

Obviously, when we lose a pet, we don’t attend a religious service or hold a memorial, although families with young children often do. We won’t be receiving condolence cards nor have the pet’s relatives to grieve with. We are left on our own and often receive very unhelpful comments such as “Just get another dog/cat.”

When we have loved and have been loved back, whether by a person or an animal, we ache when that connection is lost; we feel an emptiness, and we miss that presence. It is a void that cannot be quickly filled.

I urge people who know someone who has just lost a pet or a family member, and therefore that presence call, check on how the person is doing, stay in touch frequently, maybe even daily, and treat this loss as seriously as you would the loss of a family member.

Death of a Loved One

When someone we have loved has died it is as if a limb has been taken away.

When someone we have loved has died it leaves us limping for a long time.

When someone we have loved has died grief is a task which must be undertaken so that healing can follow.

But the loss of a family member, and therefore that presence, it is always there, underfoot, next to us on the couch, and often in our beds.

The Midshipmen are 6-5 entering the Dec. 13 regular-season finale against Army and have won four of their last five games. They lead the nation in rushing, averaging 357.8 yards per game.

The teams have two common opponents, Air Force and San Jose State. The Aztecs defeated Air Force 30-14 and San Jose State 38-7, while the Midshipmen lost to Air Force 30-21 and defeated San Jose State 41-31.

San Diego State has won eight consecutive games against service academies.

One reason for the change: “The Big Ten has a lot of alumni in Southern California,” Binkowski said.

Regarding the Poinsettia, San Diego State is 7-5 this year, with all its victories coming by at least 10 points.

The Midshipmen are 6-5.
Josefowitz is a reflection of her experiences on the sub-
tentious' fully equipped for different stages of grief.

Her latest book, “Living Without the One You Cannot Live Without,” is a reflection of her research and personal experiences on the subject.

Josefowitz is a professor of management for 10 years and is an internationally known business consultant and keynote speaker. For 10 years, she had her own weekly program on public radio and a monthly segment on television. She has also been a guest on numerous radio and TV shows, including “All Things Considered,” “The Larry King Show” and “The Dr. Ruth Show,” to name a few.

Josefowitz is the best-selling author and award-winning poet of 20 business and poetry books. Her articles and poems have been published in more than 100 journals and magazines, including The Harvard Business Review, The Wall Street Journal, Psychology Today, The London Times and most major newspapers in the United States.

Her latest project focuses on how men and women grieve and heal differently and takes a new approach to the different stages of grief. Her latest book, “Living Without the One You Cannot Live Without,” is a reflection of her research and personal experiences on the subject.

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Who can you trust, really?

San Diego named nation’s third best beer city

Livelibity.com has named San Diego the third best Best Beer City 2014 in the country as local breweries nationwide enjoy a boom in the art and science of brewing while enhancing their cities’ livability.

Livelibity says San Diego offers innovative and award-winning breweries, residents who consume beer at higher rates than the average American, sophisticated beer tastes and a high quality of life for beer lovers.

The site took into account the number of award-winning breweries and beers the town has crafted in recent years according to the Great American Beer Festival. It used data from Eater to find cities where people were drinking more craft and high-end beers than average and less macro-brews than average. The number of liquor stores per capita and the city’s reputation as a beer town were also considered.

Bend, Ore. was named No. 1 in the survey, with Denver at No. 2. Ten cities were ranked in the poll. San Diego was the only California finalist.

“Being a great beer city has positive implications for attracting talent, fostering business and drawing in tourists,” Livelibity editor Matt Carmichael said. “But most importantly, it means you have great beer.”

San Diego is surrounded by more than 80 breweries and brewpubs and is known for creating new styles of beer, including the extremely hoppy San Diego Pale Ale, or Double IPA. The city scored the highest in beer consumption out of the cities on this list, with residents preferring premium, craft brews. The city is also home to several storied breweries.

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The site took into account the number of award-winning breweries and beers the town has crafted in recent years according to the Great American Beer Festival. It used data from Eater to find cities where people were drinking more craft and high-end beers than average and less macro-brews than average. The number of liquor stores per capita and the city’s reputation as a beer town were also considered.

Bend, Ore. was named No. 1 in the survey, with Denver at No. 2. Ten cities were ranked in the poll. San Diego was the only California finalist.

“Being a great beer city has positive implications for attracting talent, fostering business and drawing in tourists,” Livelibity editor Matt Carmichael said. “But most importantly, it means you have great beer.”

San Diego is surrounded by more than 80 breweries and brewpubs and is known for creating new styles of beer, including the extremely hoppy San Diego Pale Ale, or Double IPA. The city scored the highest in beer consumption out of the cities on this list, with residents preferring premium, craft brews. The city is also home to several storied breweries.

San Diego is named nation’s third best beer city

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A young scientist at the Scripps
Research Institute in La Jolla has won a prestigious $25,000 prize for his
work on how mammalian cell size is influenced by its environment. Liron Bar-Peled was named the
2014 grand prize winner of the Science & SelfLife Prize for Young
Scientists, which recognizes innovative research by early-career scientists. Bar-Peled received the award,
administered by four universities in Sweden, on December 9.

In his prize-winning essay, Bar-Peled answers a fundamental question in the
area of cell and developmental biology: how eukaryotic cell growth is regulated by
the environment. The essay, “Size Does Matter,” was published in the journal
Science. He and his team revealed that several cell components
became repositioned in certain human diseases, ranging from
a primary immune disorder to glioblastoma and ovarian cancers. The find-
ings may eventually be used to identify new ways of diagnosing and treat-
ing them.

― Times of San Diego

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Calif. 92039 or write online at scrippsnews.com or lajollalobnews.com. Please complete at least 90% of the ballot. One ballot per person. Ballots must be postmarked, submitted online, or hand-delivered by 2/27/2015
AN INTERNATIONAL CHRISTMAS The flags of many nations may dot this elementary-school playground, but at its core, this site fuels an administration found in French educational circles. The San Diego French American School, begun in 1988 with a student enrollment of one, held its annual Marche de Noel (Christmas Market), a major event in French schools and another vital reason for the Soledad Mountain Road neighborhood to mingle, on Dec. 5. Right, a woman cheerfully checks out the fare for sale from 50 nations, while a girl chomps on something called a cake-pop amid the activity and color. The private French American School enrolls 360 children from ages 2 to 13. CREDIT PHOTO
Winging it: Seasonal garden décor takes flight

By LINDA MARRONE

To me, the garden is a doorway to other worlds; one of them, of course, is the world of birds. The garden is their dinner table, bursting with bugs and worms and succulent berries—so plant more to accommodate you both!

—Anne Raver

This holiday season, why not make your garden a treat for our feathered friends. By attracting birds to your garden, you will not only be rewarded with their songs; they will also help rid your garden of harmful insect pests. Here are a few birdseed ornament ideas you can make at home that are also great holiday projects for children.

**Birdseed Pinecones:** Roll pinecones in peanut butter, then in birdseed, pressing to adhere. Tie a thin piece of raffia or twine to the base of the cone, making a knot at one end, and hang the loop from tree branches or shrubs.

**Treat Wreath:** Spread a grapevine wreath with peanut butter and stick birdseed, whole sunflower seeds, raisins and dried fruit (dried apple slices and cranberries work nicely) to it. Hang the wreath from a tree; attach to a high portion of a tree trunk.

**Birdseed Cookies:** A great way to get rid of stale bread. Toast bread slices and cool. Using holiday cookie cutters in your favorite shapes, press out a design in one slice of bread, spread with peanut butter and attach birdseeds, raisins and dried cranberries, pressing to adhere to cookie. Tie a double strand of raffia through the hole and tie a knot at one end, forming a loop. Hang from tree branches.

**Birdseed Bagels:** Have some stale bagels lying around? Slice bagels in half, spread the bagels with peanut butter on both sides and dip in birdseeds and sunflower seeds. Tie twine or raffia through the bagel’s hole and hang from tree branches.

**Peanut Treats:** With a large needle, string peanuts (in their shells) on raffia. String about 2 to 3 peanuts and tie the raffia loosely to tree branches. This can also be done with raisins, grapes and popcorn. You can also make a long garland with the peanuts, but be sure to thread the outermost corner of the nuts so that the birds can detach them easily.

**Orange Peanut Butter Cups:** When you juice oranges and have leftover orange shells, fill the hollow shells with peanut butter and top with birdseeds, pressing down to adhere to the peanut butter. Make a rim around the edge with dried cranberries by pressing them into the peanut butter. Puncture a hole in the rind and tie a raffia loop through it and hang from branches.

**Fruit Treats:** Slice apples, pears and oranges and hang from branches with wire ornament hangers or short pieces of raffia or twine punched through the top of the fruit. Make sure the strings of fruit, nuts and popcorn are short, since longer strings are difficult for the birds to handle and they could get entwined. A few inches works perfectly. Tie the raffia loosely to branches so that it can be pulled away easily.

— Linda Marrone is a Realtor with Coldwell Banker. Stories about her historic La Jolla garden have been published in local and national magazines.
Merchants association cites need to promote itself in 2015

By DAVE SCHWAB

"Education" will be the mantra for La Jolla Village Merchants Association in 2015, the business improvement district determined at its December meeting, which was devoted to strategic planning.

"We’re taking education and making it a big part of what we’re focusing on this year," said Sheila Fortune, the association’s executive director, who noted the group is committed to getting word out about what it does — and how it goes about it.

"Education is what it’s all about," agreed association chair Claude- Anthony "CA" Marengo.

"This is an important discussion," noted board member and Realtor Claudette Berwin.

Marengo said one order of business for next year is to find ways to entice corporations and other new and desirable businesses to come to the Village.

"We could have a beautiful presentation package of La Jolla Village sent to corporations that say ‘come to La Jolla,’" said Berwin.

Fortune noted that a drive to get businesses in La Jolla Village to pay their delinquent business-license taxes has borne fruit in a big way, bringing much-needed revenues to the district.

Marengo said he’s like to bolster district membership, which now stands at 1,357.

"I’d like to get us to 1,500 by the end of the year," he said.

In other matters:

- Heather Vrana, marketing/Information Center assistant manager, introduced herself to the audience, noting she will be giving monthly updates on how the association promotes Village businesses.

"We hand out maps and literature and help people find the things they need," she said, adding that the info center, located between West Olive and Haagen Daus near the corner of Prospect and Ivarhoe, is open seven days a week, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The center also has a website, lajollabythesea.com, as well as having a social media presence on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Pinterest.

- Marengo announced that La Jolla Village News has been selected as the district’s media partner and will be working with the district in 2015 to get the word out about what the organization is and all that it is doing.

- Village neighbors complained to the LVMA board about smelly, dripping yellow garbage trucks that have been parking in the downtown recently for long periods of time. They urged the district to support them in their efforts to appeal to the city to institute an ordinance stating trucks with garbage can’t be parked in residential areas.

By Cecilia Sanchez

"I’d like to see us at 1,500 by end of year," said Sheila Fortune, the association’s executive director.

"It’s Time we make a change!" he said.

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By Cecilia Sanchez
La Jolla is the setting for a new mystery novel

No National Football League pension was big enough to stem the tide that former player Thomas "Big Mac" MacDonald was battling — and he'd lose it in the divorce anyway, like everything else. Everything else, it seems, but his classic Volkswagen van. And even that wasn't necessarily a given, as the Mission Bay/Bird Rock-area beach park where the homeless sleep in their cars was rapidly losing residents.

In fact, the park is shrouded in mystery, with which MacDonald and his 12-year-old daughter are confronted as MacDonald sets out to rebuild his life. He'll go all out to do the right thing, knowing that failure will only mark him as another player who died before his time.

San Diego resident, trainer, speaker, 21-time author and entrepreneur Lee Silber knows the feeling. As writer of his latest novel "The Homeless Hero," and creator of Big Mac, he spent a week on the streets of San Diego as a homeless person — on purpose — which he describes on leesilber.com.

“I had no idea how hard life could be,” Silber said of the experience, which involved everything from blowing through his last $40 to collecting cans for spare change.

“I learned so much from good people and bad about what it takes to live in your car or under a cardboard box, and much of what I discovered made its way into my book. Researching it was trying (but worth it), and writing it was a labor of love.”

“Of course,” Silber said in a release, “the book is purely fictional... The characters and the situations are made up, but the locations are real. I'm sure La Jollans will recognize the references to the famous—and not so famous—places used to set the scenes.”


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FRIDAY, Dec. 19
• The Comedy Store, 7 p.m. Headliner is comedian Kirk Fox, a former tennis pro who’s gone on to play the HBO Comedy Festival in Aspen, has a "Comedy Central Presents" installment and was the last comic on "The Tonight Show" with Jay Leno. $20. thecomedy store.com.

SATURDAY, Dec. 20
• Lunch with Santa, ages 2 to 10, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., La Jolla Rec Center. 615 Prospect St. donation at the door. Parents, bring along your children for fun with Santa and his helpers. Cameras recommended. sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/centers/ and scroll down.

SUNDAY, Dec. 21
• La Jolla Open Aire Market, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., La Jolla Elementary School, corner Girard Avenue and Center Street. Weekly farmers market offers the best in local produce and arts and crafts by local artisans plus a food court and live entertainment. lajollamarket.com.

MONDAY, Dec. 22
• Chanukah festival of lights and live performance by The Moshav Band, 7 p.m. BarFly La Jolla, 909 Prospect St., No. 100, pre-sale tickets $20, $26 at the door, ages 21 and up. barflylapjolla.com.

TUESDAY, Dec. 23
• The Comedy Store, 7:30 p.m. The best of San Diego features the best and brightest comics in the industry. 21 and up, two-drink minimum. thecomedy store.com.

WEDNESDAY, Dec. 17
• Steven Ybarra live performance in the Palm Plaza area of Westfield UTC, 7 p.m. BarFly La Jolla, 909 Prospect St., No. 100, pre-sale tickets $20, $26 at the door, ages 21 and up. barflylajolla.com.

THURSDAY, Dec. 18
• Gillispie School campus tour, 8:45-9:15 a.m., 7380 Girard Ave. Over the past year, the Gillispie campus has grown immensely, with additions including a new sports field, art atelier, sustainability garden, and science bungalow, and it was voted the best private preschool-grade 6 school in La Jolla. Touring is the first step in learning more about what sets a Gillispie education apart. RSVP to admissions lead Brittany Wiczek at bwiczek@gillispie.org or call (858) 459-3773, ext. 135. gillispie.org.
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**Qualcomm Cuts 178 Jobs In San Diego**

San Diego-based Qualcomm is laying off close to 200 workers in San Diego and around 300 workers in California, according to official filings with the California Employment Development Department.

A company spokesperson confirmed the layoff Wednesday. Qualcomm is also laying off approximately the same number of people from its global workforce, the spokesperson said.

“We regularly evaluate our businesses to determine where efficiencies can be obtained and priorities addressed,” the spokesperson said in a statement. “On occasion, that requires we adjust the size or skill mix of our work teams in order to shrink or eliminate some projects and start and grow new projects.”

According to its Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification filed Wednesday with EDD, 178 workers in San Diego will get the pink slip in 111 in its San Jose and Santa Clara locations.

The layoff will begin around Feb. 11, 2015, according to the WARN filing.

The spokesperson said some employees will be moved to other parts of the company and the rest will receive severance and transition packages but did not specify which areas are being cut or expanded.

Qualcomm is the world’s largest maker of computer chips for mobile and electronic devices.

— Times of San Diego
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